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Is a better place to work***



# **Clark Fork River Basin: Economic Profile**

**March 10, 2008**

# The Clark Fork Basin

- Granite, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Sanders Counties (100%)
- Silver Bow, Deer Lodge & Flathead (99%)
- Small portions of Lewis & Clark and Lincoln Counties
- 2000 population of the Basin: 302,739 (34.4% of state's total)
- 2006 population: 324,634
- 7.2% increase since 2000



# Population Growth is Uneven

- 68% of the Basin's total population resides in Flathead, Missoula and Ravalli Counties
- These three counties accounted for 92% of population growth in the Basin since 2000
- Population projections show consistent growth to 2020
- Growth in counties such as Silver Bow, Sanders and Lake is likely



# Labor Force Trends

- The average annual labor force in the Basin increased 6.6% between 2000 and 2006 (reaching 166,194)
- Employment in the Basin grew 8.4% during the same period (reaching 160,420)
- Employment in Montana grew 6.6% between 2000 and 2006



# What are our most important industries?

- % GDP—Government, Real Estate, Retail
- Employment—Government, Retail, Health Care
- Wages—Federal Civilian, Utility, Mining
- Receipts—Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Tourism
- Exports—Manufacturing, Agriculture, Mining



# Points to Ponder

- Residential development at the rate of one home for every two acres is unsustainable (just ask Jared Diamond)
- Developments like the Bitterroot Resort have environmental benefits when compared to the alternative
- Industrial sites in the Clark Fork Basin are important assets (energy production, biomass utilization, manufacturing)
- Foreign investment will increase, but water resources are critical

